

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-3 and 17 are amended in this response. No new matter has been added. In particular, claims 1-3 are amended to provide for a final “reporting” step. The amended claims are supported in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 5-20. Claim 17 is amended to include the term “means for” in front of every apparatus step in order to clarify the claim language. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 - 18 will remain pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As described above, claim 17 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to include the term “means for” in front of every apparatus step in order to clarify the claim language and to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as not providing for a tangible result. As described above, claim 1 has been amended to provide for a final “reporting” step. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 provides for a useful, concrete and tangible result such that the claim is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 2-16 and 18, which depend from claim 1, are submitted as patentable for the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.



Conclusion

Applicants do not believe that any fees are owed by the timely submission of this response. However, if there is ever any fee deficiency or overpayment of any fees in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or credit such overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

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I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on **December 15, 2006** with sufficient postage as first class mail (including Express Mail per MPEP §512), and addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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